

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 20 and bridging to page 3, line 9 as follows:

There have been various proposals up to now aimed at ameliorating the above problems. Examples are treatment by a hydroxyamine or a phenylhydrazine (Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No.1985-32791 and Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No.1985-42385), addition of a non-aromatic organic amine (Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No.1987-4289), surface treatment by an aliphatic metal salt, a lactic acid metal salt or the like (Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No.1987-50355), addition of an aliphatic amine (Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No.~~1990-1906841~~ 1990-196841), addition of sorbic acid and/or potassium sorbate (Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No.1993-202055), addition of an alkali metal salt of an amino acid (Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No.1997-286787) and like methods.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 14 as follows:

Preferred examples include sodium lauryl sulfate, sodium stearyl sulfate, sodium oleyl sulfate, sodium polyoxyethylene (the number of moles of ethylene oxide added = 2 to 3) lauryl ether sulfate, sodium polyoxyethylene (the number of moles of ethylene oxide added = 2 to 3) stearyl ether

sulfate, ~~sodium polyoxy~~ sodium polyoxyethylene (the number of moles of ethylene oxide added = 2 to 3) nonylphenyl ether sulfate, and ~~sodium polyoxy~~ sodium polyoxyethylene (the number of moles of ethylene oxide added = 2 to 3) dodecylphenyl ether sulfate.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 39, line 24 and bridging to page 47, line 6 as follows:

Preferred examples of the diacetal composition comprising components (A), (B) and (C) include the following:

- (1) 1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + lauryl alcohol + sodium stearate,
- 1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + myristyl alcohol + sodium stearate,
- 1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + palmityl alcohol + sodium stearate,
- 1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + stearyl alcohol + sodium stearate,
- 1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium laurate,
- 1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium palmitate,
- 1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + lithium stearate,
- 1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + potassium stearate,
- 1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium 12-hydroxystearate,
- 1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium stearate,
- 1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + potassium 12-hydroxystearate,

1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium behenate,
1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium montanate,
1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium oleate,
1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + lithium lauryl sulfate,
1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium lauryl sulfate,
1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + potassium lauryl sulfate,
1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + potassium oleyl sulfate,
1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + ~~sodium polyethyleneoxy~~ sodium
polyoxyethylene (3 moles added) lauryl sulfate,
1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium glyceryl monolaurate sulfate,
1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + diethanolamine,
1,3:2,4-O-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + triisopropanolamine.
(2) 1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + lauryl alcohol + sodium stearate,
1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + myristyl alcohol + sodium stearate,
1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + palmityl alcohol + sodium stearate,
1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + stearyl alcohol + sodium stearate,
1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium laurate,
1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium palmitate,
1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + lithium stearate,
1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium stearate,
1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + potassium 12-

hydroxystearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium behenate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium montanate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium oleate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + lithium lauryl sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium lauryl sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + potassium lauryl sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + potassium oleyl sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + potassium stearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium 12-hydroxystearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + ~~sodium polyethyleneoxy~~
sodium polyoxyethylene (3 moles added) lauryl sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium glyceryl monolaurate sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + diethanolamine, and

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-methylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + triisopropanolamine.

(3) 1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + lauryl alcohol + sodium stearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + myristyl alcohol + sodium stearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + palmityl alcohol + sodium stearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + stearyl alcohol + sodium stearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium laurate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium palmitate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + lithium stearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium stearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + potassium 12-hydroxystearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium behenate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + potassium stearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium 12-hydroxystearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium montanate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium oleate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + lithium lauryl sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium lauryl sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + potassium lauryl sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + potassium oleyl sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + ~~sodium polyethyleneoxy~~
sodium polyoxyethylene (3 moles added) lauryl sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium glyceryl monolaurate sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + diethanolamine,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(p-ethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + triisopropanolamine.

(4) 1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + lauryl alcohol + sodium stearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + myristyl alcohol + sodium stearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + palmityl alcohol + sodium stearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + stearyl alcohol + sodium stearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium laurate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium palmitate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + lithium stearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium stearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + potassium 12-hydroxystearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + potassium stearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium 12-hydroxystearate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium behenate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium montanate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium oleate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + lithium lauryl sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium lauryl sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + potassium lauryl

sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + potassium oleyl sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + ~~sodium~~ ~~polyethyleneoxy~~ sodium polyoxyethylene (3 moles added) lauryl sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + sodium glyceryl monolaurate sulfate,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + diethanolamine,

1,3:2,4-bis-O-(3,4-dimethylbenzylidene)-D-sorbitol + 12-hydroxystearic acid + triisopropanolamine, and the like.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 47, line 7 as follows:

The diacetal composition according to the present invention can be easily prepared by adding component (B) or components (B) and (C) to the diacetals represented by ~~formula (A)~~ formula (1).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 66, line 8 as follows:

In the diacetal compositions shown in Tables 2 and 3, the amount of component (B) and component (C) are expressed as a percentage (% by weight) ~~based on the total amount of components (A) and (B)~~ based on the total amount of components (A), (B) and (C). Accordingly, the percentage of component (A), MA (wt%), can be calculated as follows: $MA = 100 - (MB + MC)$, wherein MB is the percentage of component (B) (wt%) and MC is the percentage of component (C) (wt%), with the proviso that $MC = 0$, if component (C) was not used. The same applies to the following Tables 4 and 5.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 75, line 17 as follows:

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 9 COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 11

Evaluation was conducted in the same manner as in Example 41, except that no nucleating agent was added. The results are shown in Table 6.